

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089285

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TAGS: ETRD, AG, EEC

SUBJ: STATUSREPORT, EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY;
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ACP COUNTRIES

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 2025; B) EC BRUSSELS 2066

1. SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF THE EASTER HOLIDAYS, THE COMMUNITY
HAS RESUMED WORK ON THE PREPARATION OF A NEW MANDATE
FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND IS
CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, PACIFIC
(ACP) COUNTRIES, THE LATTER NEGOTI-
ATIONS FACILITATED BY SOME CHANGES IN THE
PREVIOUS MANDATE ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE DURING THE
EASTER BREAK. THIS CABLE DESCRIBES DEVELOPMENT IN THESE
TWO POLICY AREAS SINCE THE APRIL 1-2 EC COUNCIL MEETING.

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PAGE 02 STATE 089285

END SUMMARY.

2. MEDITERRANEAN POLICY - THE GERMANS HAVE STILL NOT DECIDED WHETHER THE TIME IS RIPE FOR TABLING AN OVERALL COMPROMISE, AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL B. UNCERTAINTIES CREATED BY POSSIBLE UK RENEGOTIATION AND THE FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION REMAIN COMPLICATING FACTORS. IN ADDITION, SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS BY SOME MEMBER STATES ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS STILL EXIST. THE UK CONTINUES TO PRESS ITS PARTNERS TO GRANT FURTHER CONCESSIONS IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD, E.G. FRUIT JUICES AND CERTAIN CANNED FRUITS. IT ALSO HAS RESERVATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE FORM OF FINANCIAL AID TO THE MAGHREB STATES. THE ALGERIAN WINE ISSUE, OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO FRANCE AND ITALY, ALSO IS OUTSTANDING. THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME POSSIBILITY THAT THE GERMANS COULD TABLE THEIR COMPROMISE NEXT WEEK, BUT THIS WOULD LEAVE LITTLE TIME FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MEMBER STATES PRIOR TO THE MAY 7 COUNCIL MEETING. THE ODDS CONTINUE TO FAVOR PUTTING OFF DECISIONS UNTIL EARLY JUNE. THERE ARE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON "RECIPROCITY."

3. THE ACP NEGOTIATIONS - DISCUSSIONS HAVE RESUMED AT THE WORKING LEVEL. THE MEMBER STATES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A MANDATE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS OF CAP-COVERED ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE ACPS. HOWEVER, BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE SINCE THE APRIL 1-2 COUNCIL MEETING, THE MEMBER STATES HAVE AGREED TO MODIFICATION IN SOME ASPECTS OF THE PREVIOUS MANDATE. THESE WILL ALLOW THE COMMISSION TO CONTINUE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH THE ACP COUNTRIES. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE CHANGES IN THE PREVIOUS MANDATE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: 1) ACCEPTANCE OF SOME FORM OF CUMULATIVE ORIGIN WITHIN THE NEW AGREEMENTS, PROBABLY ON A REGIONAL BASIS, I.E. AMONG THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AS A GROUP, THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AS A GROUP; 2) WILLINGNESS OF THE EC TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WHICH MAY RESULT FROM GRADUAL EC HARMONIZATION OF NTBS; 3) THE OPENING OF DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE EC-ACP INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION; AND 4) EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH REGARD TO THE COMMISSION'S EXPORT RECEIPTS STABILIZATION PROGRAM. THE PROPOSAL AS SUCH HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 089285

THE MEMBER STATES, BUT THEY ARE PREPARED TO ALLOW THE COMMISSION TO BROACH THE SUBJECT WITH THE ACPS ON THE BASIS OF THAT PROPOSAL. AS IN THE CASE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE "RECIPROCITY" ISSUE (REVERSE PREFERENCES). MYERSON UNQUOTE RUSH

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